

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1, 3-11 and 13 have been amended and claim 2 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-11 and 13 are currently pending.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 13, 2003.

Drawings

Figs. 1 and 2 have been corrected to change the word "Shitter" to "Shifter" on the attached Replacement Sheet.

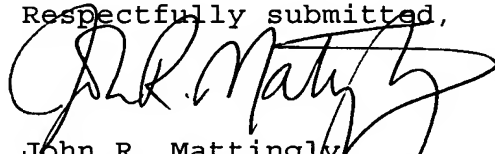
35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 11 and have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claims 2 and 12, respectively, since each of these claims has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, thereby rendering moot the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, claims 1, 3-11 and 13 should now be allowed, and the application passed to issue.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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